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## **Briefing on Zero Net Deforestation and forest Degradation (ZNDD)**

2010 is a crucial year for the future of the World's Forests. The substantial reduction of deforestation and forest degradation is a precondition for reversing the alarming trend of biodiversity loss, for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and for improving the livelihoods of millions of people.

Two critical UN processes are currently addressing the issue of deforestation and forest degradation:

- **CBD COP 10 in Nagoya, Japan in October 2010** will discuss in how far forests and concrete targets on deforestation and forest degradation will be covered within the CBD Strategic Plan 2011 - 2020.
- **UNFCCC COP 16 in Cancun, Mexico in December 2010** is seeking to establish a framework for REDD+. The preamble of the latest version (FCCC/AWGLCA/2010/14) text includes a place holder for a possible global goal for reducing deforestation.<sup>1</sup>

The supplementary **REDD+ Partnership Process** functions as an interim platform that promotes immediate action on REDD+ by supporting participating countries in their efforts of scaling up activities and finance.

WWF calls on Parties to the CBD and the UNFCCC to support

a) the target for **Zero Net Deforestation and forest Degradation (ZNDD) by 2020** through the inclusion of the target in the CBD 2020 Strategic Plan (**ref to CBD Target 5**) and revised forest programme (details see ANNEX 1),

b) the target for **Zero Net Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation by 2020** through the inclusion of the target in the post-2012 global climate agreement by promoting and including the REDD+ Principles, Targets and Indicators (details see ANNEX 2).

For further information, please contact:

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<sup>1</sup> The **Interim REDD+ Partnership Process** (IRP), a global voluntary process which was established at the Oslo Climate and Forest Conference, is seeking to supplement the UNFCCC. WWF calls on the partners to reflect the attached principles (ANNEX 2) as safeguards in IRP's work programmes.

## **Two Processes - One Common Goal: Zero Net Deforestation and forest Degradation by 2020**

### **CBD's Updating and Revision of the Strategic Plan for the Period 2011 - 2020**

WWF welcomes that the CBD is addressing the ongoing forest loss in the draft Strategic Plan for the next decade. However, WWF believes that the current proposed Target 5<sup>2</sup> is **not** sufficient to halt and restore biodiversity loss and to enhance capacity of ecosystems to provide services, which are both central points of the 2020 CBD overall mission.

WWF is proposing an alternative target of **Zero Net Deforestation and forest Degradation by 2020** achieved through (ANNEX 1)

- a) reducing gross deforestation by 75% with a focus on primary or natural forests (reducing deforestation of primary or natural forests closed to zero (>95%)) and through
- b) socially and environmentally sound forest restoration, afforestation and reforestation programmes.
- c) Addressing drivers of deforestation and forest degradation
- d) Provision of adequate and predictable long-term finance

### **UNFCCC's REDD+ Process**

As forest destruction is responsible for approximately 15 % of global GHG emissions, it is imperative that action to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation be taken. Countries should commit to **Zero Net Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation by 2020**. REDD+ offers a unique opportunity to address the alarming loss of forests.

WWF is proposing **REDD+ Principles, Targets and Indicators** (ANNEX 2) to set a global benchmark for successful REDD+ programmes in tackling the problem of deforestation and forest degradation at the scale and pace needed to prevent catastrophic climate change, to avoid further decline in biodiversity, to promote human wellbeing and to support low carbon development.

The UNFCCC and the supplementary Interim REDD+ Partnership (IRP) aim for a global commitment and concrete action to halt deforestation and forest degradation. WWF is urging parties to the UNFCCC and partners of the IRP that a REDD+ framework has strong safeguards in place which demonstrably contribute to CO<sub>2</sub> reductions, maintain/enhance biodiversity, contribute to sustainable livelihoods, recognize the rights of indigenous peoples and mobilize fair and effective funding as outlined in WWF's Principles, Targets and Indicators. (ANNEX 2)

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<sup>2</sup> UNEP/CBD/COP/10/4, 6 June 2010: Proposed Target 5 of the CBD post 2010 Strategic Plan: By 2020, the rate of loss and degradation, and fragmentation, of natural habitats, [including forests], is [at least halved][brought close to zero].

## **Rationale**

### **Deforestation has negative effects on biodiversity, the climate and people**

Deforestation continues at an alarming rate - 13 million hectares per year, or 36 football fields a minute.<sup>3</sup>

Deforestation and degradation of forests have dire consequences for the global climate, biodiversity and people. Forests contain the vast majority of the world's terrestrial biodiversity. Many people source food, medicine, building materials and fuel-wood directly from forests, and depend on forest ecosystem services for water supply, flood prevention, and climate change mitigation. Some 1.6 billion people worldwide depend on forests for their livelihoods, with 60 million indigenous people depending on forests for their subsistence.

### **What does Zero Net mean?**

Zero net deforestation (ZND) can be distinguished from "zero deforestation", which means **no** deforestation anywhere. Zero net deforestation acknowledges that some forest loss could be offset by forest restoration, afforestation and reforestation. Zero net deforestation is not synonymous with a total prohibition on forest clearing. Rather, it leaves room for change in the configuration of the land-use mosaic, provided that biodiversity is maintained and enhanced and the net quantity, quality and carbon density of forests is maintained. It recognizes that, in some circumstances, conversion of forests in one site may contribute to the sustainable development and conservation of the wider landscape.

In some cases natural forests are converted into forest plantations while undisturbed primary forests are being changed into modified or even degraded forests. To maximise the conservation of biodiversity and the reduction of GHG emissions the conservation of as much of the world's remaining natural forests as possible is critical. This is also underpinned by the key findings of leading experts assembled in the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on biodiversity and climate change. WWF is proposing to reduce deforestation and degradation of natural forests close to zero by 2020.

### **How can Zero Net Deforestation and Forest Degradation be achieved?**

There is no single solution for tackling deforestation. Effective strategies will involve a range of measures. The target can not be achieved by environmental and forest agencies alone. It requires integration of various cross-sectoral governmental policies such as agriculture, energy, finance and trade as well as changes in consumption patterns addressing drivers of deforestation. A global goal for zero net deforestation and forest degradation must come hand-in-hand with commitments from developed countries to provide adequate and predictable long-term finance to help achieve this target.

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<sup>3</sup> (According to FAO (March 2010) the "net" forest loss recently dropped to 5,2 million hectares per year because of large afforestation and reforestation programmes particularly carried out in Asia).



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## **Parties to the CBD who signed WWF's Call for Zero Net Deforestation by 2020**

(As at 30 May 2008)

At COP 9, 67 ministers signed WWF's  
petition for achieving Zero Net  
Deforestation by 2020

1. Nigeria
2. Oman
3. Pakistan
4. Panama
5. Paraguay
6. Peru
7. Poland
8. Samoa
9. Senegal
10. Serbia
11. Sierra Leone
12. Slovenia
13. South Africa
14. St Vincent and Grenadines
15. Sweden
16. Tajikistan
17. Tanzania
18. Tchad
19. Timor Leste
20. Turkmenistan
21. Uganda
22. Ukraine
23. UK
24. Vietnam
25. Yemen
26. Zambia
27. Zimbabwe
28. European Commission
29. Afghanistan
30. Australia
31. Austria
32. Benin
33. Bosnia and Herzegovina
34. Brazil
35. Burkina Faso
36. Cambodia
37. Colombia
38. Congo-Brazzaville

39. Costa Rica
40. Croatia
41. Cyprus
42. Czech Republic
43. Denmark
44. Ecuador
45. Ethiopia
46. Finland
47. France
48. Gambia
49. Germany
50. Guatemala
51. Guinea-Bissau
52. Guinea (West Africa)
53. Hungary
54. India
55. Indonesia
56. Iran
57. Japan
58. Kenya
59. Latvia
60. Lesotho
61. Liberia
62. Madagascar
63. Mauritania
64. Mexico
65. Namibia
66. Nepal
67. Netherlands
68. New Zealand

### **Others:**

- ✓ CBD Secretariat
- ✓ Commission of Forestry in Central Africa (COMIFAC)
- ✓ IUFRO
- ✓ Ramsar Convention
- ✓ UNEP
- ✓ Subregional Programme for the Conservation of Marine and Coastal Areas in West Africa (PRCM)

**ANNEX 1: Zero Net Deforestation and Forest Degradation (ZNDD) – WWF proposed sub-targets, indicators (safeguards)**

**By 2020, Zero net deforestation and forest degradation is achieved through (sub-targets, indicators):**

**1**

**A) Reducing gross deforestation and forest degradation by 75% (2005: 13 Mill ha → 2020: 3-3,5 Mill ha) through, inter-alia,**

**- reducing deforestation and degradation of primary or natural forests closed to zero (>95%)**

Possible indicator:

+ Area of natural/primary forests

**- enhancing the conservation of forests and forest based eco-system services**

Possible indicators:

+ Area of forest protected areas (networks)

+ Area of forest protected areas (networks) managed effectively according to Management Effectiveness Evaluations (such as the WWF Rapid Assessment and

+ Prioritization of Protected Area Management (RAPPAM) Methodology, World Bank/WWF Tracking Tool, TNC- Conservation Action Planning, UNESCO WH- Enhancing our Heritage)

**- combating illegal logging**

Possible indicators:

+ Volume of verified legal timber products trade as a portion of the global volume Number of bilateral agreements between producers and consumers of timber products initiated (such as Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs) under the EU FLEGT Action Plan)

+ Number of bilateral agreements between producers and consumers of timber products successfully implemented (reduced percentage of illegal timber trade between bilateral partners)

+ Number of legal instruments set in place by countries or regions to stop the trade of illegally produced timber products (such as the US Lacey Act or the EU legislation on illegal timber)

**- sustainable management of forests**

Possible indicator:

+ Area certified under credible forest certification schemes (such as the FSC)

+ Area managed according to criteria and indicators for the sustainable management of forests (such as ATO/ITTO principles, criteria and indicators for the sustainable management of African natural tropical forests, the ITTO/IUCN guidelines for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in tropical timber production forests, the MCPFE criteria and indicators for the sustainable management of forests in the Pan-European region)

## By 2020, Zero net deforestation and forest degradation is achieved through (sub-targets, indicators):

2

- selection of areas for forest conversion/land use change (for agriculture, bio-energy, infrastructure etc.) to be based on agreed sustainability criteria developed through meaningful, participatory and transparent stakeholder processes

Possible Indicator:

- + Forest area responsibly developed for agricultural purposes, outside of areas important for the maintenance and enhancement of high conservation values (according to the HCV concept, [www.hcvnetwork.org](http://www.hcvnetwork.org)) and carbon values, following the Principles and Criteria of relevant standards for sustainable/responsible production such as on palm-oil (RSPO) and bio-fuel (RSB).
- + Forest area assessed and managed to maintain and enhance high conservation values (HCV) and carbon values.

- maximising co-benefits of forest related GHG emission reduction (e.g. REDD+) programmes

Possible Indicator:

- + Area of Forest Carbon Projects designed and managed according to WWF's proposed Principles, Targets & Indicators.

### **B) Socially and environmentally sound restoration, afforestation and reforestation programmes (3-3,5 Mill ha)**

Possible Indicator:

- + Area of planted forests following internationally agreed standards and guidelines for responsible afforestation and reforestation such the FAO Voluntary Guidelines of responsible management of planted forests, the MCPFE Pan-European Guidelines for Afforestation and Reforestation, the Principles of the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration.

### **C) Addressing drivers of deforestation and forest degradation**

Possible Indicator:

- + Trends in the distribution of monetary and non-monetary assets from REDD+ across households and/or communities
- + Trends in productive employment and decent work related to REDD+ for all, including women and young people
- + The number of REDD+ readiness plans that address drivers and specifically link REDD+ to economic development for forest communities
- + Volume of credibly certified timber, agricultural and bio-energy products based on agreed sustainability criteria developed through meaningful, participatory and transparent stakeholder processes procured and consumed by developed countries

### **D) Provision of adequate and predictable long-term finance**

Possible Indicator:

- + Trends in annual commitments for REDD+ initiatives
- + Trends in payments of eco-system services

## ANNEX 2

### WWF Proposed REDD+ Guiding Principles, Targets and Indicators

#### FINAL DRAFT FOR EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

REDD+ offers a unique opportunity to address the dire consequences of ongoing forest loss and forest degradation while benefiting the planet's climate, biodiversity and people.

We believe that the following principles set a global benchmark for success in tackling the problem of deforestation and forest degradation at the scale and pace needed to prevent catastrophic climate change, to avoid further decline in biodiversity, to promote human wellbeing and to support low carbon development.

Principles	Targets	Proposed Indicators
<p><b>Principle 1:</b></p> <p><b>CLIMATE</b></p> <p><b>REDD+ demonstrably contributes to greenhouse gas emission reductions with national goals working toward a global objective</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>25% reduction in gross deforestation and forest degradation by 2015</b></li> <li><b>Zero net emissions</b> from deforestation and forest degradation by 2020</li> <li><b>75% reduction in gross deforestation and forest degradation by 2020</b></li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trends in emissions from forest sector, as measured initially by proxies, such as deforestation, degradation, conservation, sustainable management and enhancement of forest carbon stocks</li> <li>Trend in Parties/Partners implementing a global objective of Zero Net Deforestation</li> <li>Number of forest carbon baselines established in priority forest areas using the most effective and available technology</li> <li>Number of countries agreeing to implement REDD+ through national frameworks (i.e. national reference levels and national accounting)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Principle 2:</b></p> <p><b>BIODIVERSITY</b></p> <p><b>REDD+ maintains and/or enhances forest biodiversity and ecosystem services</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Strong social, environmental and governance principles and safeguards</b> are in place by end 2010</li> <li>Initial REDD+ efforts focus on <b>priority forest areas</b> (areas of high threat, carbon, biodiversity and social value) by 2011</li> <li>REDD+ programmes <b>maintain and where possible enhance the role of forest ecosystems</b> for climate resilience</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adoption of safeguards based upon UNFCCC principles and CCBA standards - applicable to principle 3 and 4 also</li> <li>Priority forest areas are defined</li> <li>Trends in abundance and distribution of species, threatened species</li> <li>Trends in quality, connectivity and fragmentation of forest ecosystems in areas supported by REDD+ programmes</li> <li>Trends in carbon payments for ecosystem services</li> <li>Number of approved REDD+ readiness plans that explicitly incorporate preference for priority forest areas</li> </ul>

Principles	Targets	Proposed Indicators
<p><b>Principle 3:</b></p> <p><b>LIVELIHOODS</b></p> <p>REDD+ contributes to sustainable and equitable development by addressing the underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation</p>	<p>REDD+ benefits are shared equitably and improve <b>long-term livelihood security and well-being</b> of Indigenous Peoples and local communities with special attention to the most vulnerable groups</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trends in the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day</li> <li>• Trends in the distribution of monetary and non-monetary assets from REDD+ across households and/or communities</li> <li>• Trends in productive employment and decent work related to REDD+ for all, including women and young people</li> <li>• The number of REDD+ readiness plans that specifically link REDD+ to economic development for forest communities</li> </ul>
<p><b>Principle 4:</b></p> <p><b>RIGHTS</b></p> <p>REDD+ recognizes and respects the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. REDD+ programmes identify, recognize and <b>respect statutory and customary rights to lands, territories and resources</b>, and the role and contribution of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices</li> <li>2. REDD+ programmes are based upon full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, including <b>Free, Prior, &amp; Informed Consent</b> for actions affecting rights to lands, territories and resources</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• REDD+ programmes have clearly defined recognition of indigenous peoples' and local communities' rights to lands, territories and resources</li> <li>• Number of REDD+ programmes supporting stewardship roles of indigenous peoples and local communities</li> <li>• Number of REDD+ programmes at all levels adopting FPIC</li> </ul>
<p><b>Principle 5:</b></p> <p><b>FAIR &amp; EFFECTIVE FUNDING</b></p> <p>REDD+ mobilizes immediate, adequate and predictable resources for action in priority forest areas in an equitable, transparent, participatory and coordinated manner</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>New and additional funding</b> for REDD+ is disbursed – at a minimum EUR 6 billion by 2012, EUR 25 billion by 2015 and thereafter adequate and predictable funding</li> <li>• Provision of funds is <b>transparent and based on MRV</b> conditions and criteria established under the UNFCCC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trends in annual commitments for REDD+ initiatives</li> <li>• Establishment of national coordination mechanisms between forest countries and donors with full involvement of civil society</li> <li>• A registry is developed that manages information on funds and actions on REDD+ in order to improve coordination and transparency</li> <li>• Published timelines and information on REDD+ activities available in various languages</li> </ul>